



**Board of Supervisors
County of Louisa
Monday, February 2, 2026
Louisa County Public Meeting Room
5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER - 5:00 P.M.

Chairman Adams called the February 2, 2026, meeting of the Louisa County Board of Supervisors to order at 5:00 p.m.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Tommy J. Barlow	Mountain Road District Supervisor	Present	5:00 PM
Fitzgerald A. Barnes	Patrick Henry District Supervisor	Present	5:00 PM
Christopher C. McCotter	Cuckoo District Supervisor	Present	5:00 PM
H. Manning Woodward, III	Louisa County Supervisor	Present	5:00 PM
R. T. Williams	Jackson District Supervisor	Present	5:00 PM
Duane A. Adams	Mineral District Supervisor	Present	5:00 PM
Rachel G. Jones	Green Springs District Supervisor	Present	5:00 PM

Others Present: Christian Goodwin, County Administrator; Wanda Colvin, Deputy County Administrator/Director of Finance; Patricia Smith, County Attorney; Alexandra Stanley, Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk; Linda Buckler, Director of Community Development; Cindy King, Community Engagement and Tourism Manager; Andy Wade, Director of Economic Development; Griff Carmichael, Director of Human Resources; and Scott Raettig, Director of Information Technology

CLOSED SESSION

On the motion of Vice Chairman Barlow, seconded by Supervisor Barnes, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to enter Closed Session at 5:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the following:

1. In accordance with §2.2-3711(A)(1), discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body; and
2. In accordance with §2.2-3711(A)(8), Consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

REGULAR SESSION

On the motion of Supervisor Williams, seconded by Supervisor Barnes, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to return to Regular Session at 6:00 p.m.

RESOLUTION - CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION

Voter	Role	Vote
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Tommy J. Barlow	Voter	Yes/Aye
Fitzgerald A. Barnes	Secunder	Yes/Aye
R.T. Williams, Jr.	Mover	Yes/Aye
Christopher C. McCotter	Voter	Yes/Aye
Duane A. Adams	Voter	Yes/Aye
Rachel G. Jones	Voter	Yes/Aye
H. Manning Woodward, III	Voter	Yes/Aye

On the motion of Supervisor Williams, seconded by Supervisor Barnes, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Louisa County Board of Supervisors has convened a Closed Meeting this 2nd day of February 2026, pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, §2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Louisa County Board of Supervisors that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with the Virginia Law.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED on this 2nd day of February 2026, that the Louisa County Board of Supervisors does hereby certify that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting was heard, discussed or considered by the Louisa County Board of Supervisors.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS - 6:00 P.M.

INVOCATION

Supervisor McCotter led the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

On the motion of Supervisor Williams, seconded by Supervisor Barnes, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to adopt the agenda, as amended:

- Added a resolution to approve funding request from the Town of Louisa EDA

MINUTES APPROVAL

Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2026

On the motion of Supervisor Barnes, seconded by Supervisor McCotter, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to approve the minutes from the January 20, 2026, regular meeting.

BILLS APPROVAL**Resolution – To Approve the Bills for the Second Half of January 2026**

On the motion of Supervisor Barnes, seconded by Supervisor McCotter, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board adopted a resolution approving the bills for second half of January 2026.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

On the motion of Supervisor Barnes, seconded by Supervisor McCotter, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to adopt the Consent Agenda as follows:

1. Resolution – Recognizing and Commending Gordon Brooks for His Dedicated Service on the Louisa County Planning Commission
2. Resolution – To Recommend Reappointment of Susan Fletcher to the Louisa County Board of Zoning Appeals
3. Resolution – Ratifying a Declaration of a Local State of Emergency
4. Resolution – Authorizing a Pass-Through Appropriation to the Louisa County Airport for State Aviation Grants

RECOGNITIONS

(None)

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chairman Adams opened the public comment period.

Mr. Bill Walling, Mineral District, raised concerns about U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). He alleged that ICE violates multiple constitutional amendments, has caused deaths, and is expanding detention operations across central Virginia, citing existing and proposed detention facilities in several counties. He warned that a similar facility could be established in Louisa County, potentially housing hundreds of detainees who he said are not criminals or threats. He urged the Board to consider issuing a statement opposing ICE's presence in Louisa County, emphasizing prevention and caution.

Mr. Hurley Lucckese, Patrick Henry District, thanked the Board for its work supporting the county, schools, and local organizations. He expressed concern about recent closures of small businesses in the Town of Louisa, noting that such closures affect the entire county. He emphasized the importance of small businesses in creating jobs, fostering community connections, and maintaining Louisa's character. He encouraged the Board to continue supporting small businesses through county policies, economic development efforts, infrastructure improvements, and collaboration with the Town Council. He also shared concerns that many local high school students do not plan to remain in Louisa County long-term due to limited opportunities, stressing that supporting small businesses can help create a future that encourages young people to return and invest in the community.

Mr. Alex Newman, Mineral District, expressed concerns about a proposed data center on the Fisher Chewing property, particularly regarding water availability. The speaker noted that many

nearby residents rely on shallow wells and are worried about potential impacts to the water table from existing and future data centers. They referenced water use tied to Lake Anna and local reservoirs, including concerns about control of inflows and the effect on the Town of Mineral and Louisa. The speaker asked what plans the County has in place to address future water supply issues, especially during drought conditions, and what protections or solutions would be available for local residents if water levels decline. They thanked the Board for its work and encouraged continued public participation.

The following speakers did not complete a comment card; therefore, names and spellings may be inaccurate.

Sammie, Mineral District, expressed support for prior suggestions by Board members regarding residency requirements before approving family subdivisions and for personal property tax reductions based on long-term residency. The speaker also raised concerns about rising land taxes due to growth and increasing property values, noting the impact on families who have lived in Louisa County for generations. They suggested considering higher taxes for new residents as a way to offset the tax burden on long-term residents. The speaker acknowledged that growth is inevitable, thanked the Board for past assistance, and expressed appreciation for the Board's work.

With no one else wishing to speak, Chairman Adams closed the public comment period.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Presentation – Reynolds Community College

Dr. Paula Pando, President, provided an update on the College's progress during the 2024–2025 academic year, emphasizing a theme of disciplined planning, prioritization, and execution. Highlights included expanded and enhanced workforce development programs in high-demand fields such as healthcare, life sciences, automotive technology, and horticulture, including a new horticulture program located at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden.

Dr. Pando outlined major partnerships with Virginia State University, Bon Secours, and Virginia Commonwealth University to address regional workforce shortages, particularly in healthcare, and to strengthen transfer and dual-admission pathways. Dr. Pando also discussed student support initiatives, including a professional clothing program to assist students with interviews and internships, and continued investment in faculty and staff development.

Reynolds reported record enrollment growth, significant increases in public grants and private philanthropy, including major investments targeted to healthcare workforce development, and national recognition through awards and selection by the Aspen Institute. Data specific to Louisa County showed increased enrollment, strong participation in dual enrollment, and over \$100,000 in scholarships awarded to Louisa students.

In response to a question about graduation rates, Dr. Pando explained the limitations of traditional federal metrics for community colleges, noting that most Reynolds students attend part-time or are returning students, and highlighted alternative measures that more accurately reflect student outcomes and transfer success.

Presentation – Commission on Aging

Ms. Susan Fletcher, Chair of the Louisa County Commission on Aging, presented the Commission's annual report and provided an update on its activities and progress. She reported that the Commission, which had previously experienced low membership, has added approximately six members over the past year, with vacancies remaining in a few districts. She noted strong support from County staff, particularly the Parks and Recreation Department and its leadership, which has assisted with coordination, budgeting, and event support.

Ms. Fletcher highlighted key Commission initiatives, including the annual Senior and Caregiver Christmas Luncheon, which continues to be well attended and includes informational vendors to assist seniors with services such as tax relief. She also discussed the addition of a senior picnic last summer and ongoing collaboration with community partners. Another major focus has been updating the "Little Yellow Book," a resource guide for seniors, which has now been retyped and is nearing republication.

The Commission is developing a new, streamlined senior needs survey to update prior data and better understand current challenges facing older residents, particularly aging in place, housing, utilities, mobility, transportation, and cost-of-living concerns. Ms. Fletcher emphasized efforts to reach underserved seniors who may not attend events or complete surveys. She also noted increased outreach through public meetings, speakers, and community organizations.

Members of the Board of Supervisors expressed appreciation for the Commission's work, recognized past and current leadership efforts, and thanked Ms. Fletcher and Commission volunteers for their dedication and service to the county's senior population.

Discussion – Use of Drone Technology

Supervisor Barnes introduced the idea of exploring the use of drone technology by the County to improve efficiency in areas such as inspections, mapping, community development, and environmental monitoring. He noted that while there are legal limitations on drone use, other localities are already using the technology successfully, and Louisa County could benefit by learning from those examples rather than reinventing processes.

During the discussion, concerns were raised about privacy and the need to establish clear parameters to prevent inappropriate or intrusive use of drones. It was also noted that drones could be particularly useful for tasks such as hydrilla surveying, which is currently performed by volunteers, and that utility partners, including Dominion, have expressed interest in or are already exploring similar technologies. Overall, the discussion reflected cautious interest in evaluating drone technology as a forward-thinking and efficient tool for county operations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(None)

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS**Resolution – Authorizing a Budget Supplement to the Fire & EMS for a Virginia Emergency Shelter Upgrade Assistance Grant**

The Board considered a resolution authorizing a budget supplement related to a Virginia Emergency Shelter Upgrade Assistance Grant for Fire and EMS. The County received a grant to fund installation of a generator at the Betty Queen Center to serve as an additional emergency shelter location if needed. The grant will cover 65% of the cost, with the County providing a 35% match. The resolution authorizes acceptance of the grant funds and allocation of \$70,000 as the required local match.

On the motion of Supervisor Williams, seconded by Supervisor Barnes, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to authorize a budget supplement in the amount of \$200,000 to Louisa Department of Fire and EMS for a Virginia Emergency Shelter Upgrade Assistance Grant for the purchase of a generator (GL # 20232300-482005-C3216) for the Betty Queen Center which serves as an emergency shelter for the County. The source of funding is \$130,000 from VDEM grants (GL# 0202R24-324040-C3216) and \$70,000 from General Fund Balance.

Resolution – Authorizing a Budget Transfer to the Louisa County Airport for a Flooring Replacement Project

Ms. Colvin explained the Louisa County Airport would like to replace its existing flooring throughout the airport terminal building, which has become worn and outdated from years of use. The new flooring will improve safety, durability, and appearance, creating a more welcoming environment for airport users, staff, and visitors. This project was included in their FY2027 capital project requests, but the department would like to proceed with the project at this time so that it is completed before their busy seasons of the year. There is funding available in Economic Development Projects in the amount of \$40,000 that could be transferred to the airport budget for the aforementioned purpose.

On the motion of Supervisor Barnes, seconded by supervisor Barlow, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to authorize a budget transfer from Economic Development Projects (GL # 30382000-481190) in the amount of \$40,000 to Airport Building Enhancements (30384000-482500) for the replacement of the flooring at the airport terminal building.

Resolution – Authorizing a Budget Transfer to the Information Technology Department for the Phone System Replacement Capital Project

Ms. Colvin stated the Information Technology department has requested funding in the amount of \$50,000 to replace the county's phone system with a new cloud-based phone system. The current phone system is at its end of life phase and no further updates are available for the system. Funding is available in the gasoline contingencies budget that can be transferred to the IT phone replacement capital project budget for this purpose.

On the motion of Supervisor Williams, seconded by Supervisor Barnes, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to authorize a budget transfer in the amount of \$50,000 to the IT Equipment Replacement Capital Project (GL # 30312400-481000) from Gasoline Contingencies (10091000-460080) for the replacement of the County's phone system.

Resolution – To Approve Funding Requests from the Town of Louisa EDA

Ms. King provided an overview of the request. She noted the Tourism Advisory Committee recommended to approve a reimbursement grant using Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) funds to support a July 4th event planned by the Town of Louisa Economic Development Authority. The proposed event, tied to Virginia 250, would include a street festival, parade, vendor marketplace, children's activities, live entertainment, and a 16-minute fireworks display. The event is designed to complement other county fireworks celebrations and attract visitors to the area.

The original funding request of \$35,000 was reduced to an amount not to exceed \$30,360 after refining cost estimates and waiving certain county permit fees. The grant would represent approximately 18% of the 25% of TOT revenues set aside for tourism program support. The event is expected to draw 2,000 to 3,000 attendees, with marketing coordinated countywide and plans for shuttle transportation. Estimated economic impact ranged from \$80,000 to \$150,000, with potential benefits to local businesses throughout the county.

On the motion of Supervisor Woodward, seconded by Supervisor Barnes, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to approve \$30,360 (not-to-exceed) for the Town of Louisa EDA toward the proposed July 4th event, as follows:

- Safety & Security (Police, EMS, fire personnel, road closures, barricades, shuttles): \$6,110
- Permits & Compliance (Sanitation, inspections, compliance fees): County to waive related fees
- Fireworks (Licensed operator, fireworks inventory, safety equipment; 16+ minute show): \$10,000
- Live Entertainment (Local bands, sound system, staging): \$6,500
- Children's Activities (Crafts, yard games, patriotic kids' zones): \$2,000
- VA250 Décor & Signage (Flags, thematic banners, corridor decorations): \$1,900
- Vendor & Activity Support (Tents, tables, lighting, electrical access): \$2,000
- Marketing & Promotion (Social media ads, print materials, regional outreach): \$1,000
- Event Insurance Liability Coverage: \$350
- Volunteer Support (Water, supplies, hospitality): \$500

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS

Supervisor Williams noted that he had encouraged the public at the previous meeting to review the County budget and share feedback and received one response from Chris Liles. He thanked Mr. Liles for taking the time to review the budget and provide thoughtful input, encouraged others to become more engaged in understanding the budget, and stated that he had read the comments and intends to follow up.

Supervisor McCotter announced an upcoming Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) public hearing on March 19, to be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Louisa County Middle School. The hearing will address an environmental discharge permit related to the Lake Anna Technology Campus, involving discharge into a creek that feeds a cooling pond at Lake Anna. Residents of the Cuckoo District and others were encouraged to participate and share their opinions, either in person, online, or through written comments, with additional information available on the County website and in local media.

Chairman Adams asked County staff to work with VDOT to evaluate Fluffi Lane for potential inclusion in the state road system, noting concerns about its condition and the elderly residents who rely on it. He also clarified a misconception regarding warming shelters, stating that nothing in the County Code prohibits churches or organizations from opening daytime warming shelters, and encouraged community groups to consider doing so during cold weather.

Additionally, Chairman Adams raised concerns about proposed firearms legislation at the state level and shared that he had received significant public feedback urging the County to reaffirm its status as a Second Amendment sanctuary. He indicated he would discuss the matter further with Board members and consider placing it on a future agenda, expressing his personal view that crime should be addressed by targeting criminals rather than restricting lawful firearm ownership.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Committee Reports

Supervisor McCotter reported that the Lake Anna Advisory Committee met on January 22. The committee re-elected its current officers, with the exception of the Vice Chair position, which is now held by Harry Looney. The committee approved changes to the hydrilla management protocol based on input from Dominion Energy and the Department of Wildlife Resources and approved the 2026 hydrilla management plan. The committee is also tracking legislation in the General Assembly that could provide funding for buoy maintenance and hydrilla management.

Board Appointments

On the motion of Supervisor Williams, seconded by Supervisor Barnes, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to make the following appointments/reappointments:

1. To appoint Mr. James Culmer to the Region Ten Board to sit a partial term until his full term starts in the summer of 2026.

County Administrator's Report

Administrator Goodwin briefly noted there were state and federal public notices to address and referenced the Lake Anna Advisory Committee update. He then focused his remarks on expressing appreciation to the Board for its leadership and to County staff for their response to the recent snowstorm. He specifically recognized the efforts of Public Safety, Parks and Recreation, and General Services staff for ensuring fire stations, roads, sidewalks, and County facilities remained accessible so emergency operations could continue. He also acknowledged effective collaboration with the Towns of Louisa and Mineral and thanked all involved for a strong team effort during the ongoing state of emergency.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ordinance – To Amend Chapter 64 Streets and Sidewalks, Article II. Street Naming and Addressing, Division. Road Naming

Linda Buckler, Director of Community Development, presented a proposed ordinance amending Chapter 64 of the County Code related to street naming and addressing. The amendments clarify

when public or private roads must be named, generally when serving three or more buildable parcels, and establish responsibility for the initial installation, maintenance, and replacement of road signs. At the November 17, 2025 meeting, the Board directed staff to proceed with amendments to Chapter 64. Streets and Sidewalks; including review of the proposed amendments to Chapter 64 by the Planning Commission and holding a public hearing on the proposed amendments. At a regular meeting of the Louisa County Planning Commission held January 8, 2026, the Planning Commission voted that the public necessity, convenience, general welfare, or good zoning practice compels it to make a recommendation of approval to the Louisa County Board of Supervisors on the proposed amendments to Chapter 64. Streets and Sidewalks.

Board members discussed concerns regarding the use of terms such as “path” in street type designations, seeking clarification that the language applies only to road naming conventions and not to non-road pathways. Staff confirmed the intent was to standardize street name suffixes and would not affect plat approvals or define walkways or trails as roads. Additional discussion clarified that developers are responsible for installing initial road signs, while the County would assume responsibility for maintenance or replacement after installation due to public safety and 911 addressing needs. It was also noted that future fee adjustments may help offset these costs. Questions were raised regarding the Board’s authority to rename roads, including roads within private subdivisions that are state-maintained. Staff confirmed this authority already exists in the County Code and was not expanded by the proposed amendments.

Chairman Adams opened the public hearing. With no one wishing to speak, Chairman Adams closed the public hearing and brought it back to the Board for discussion.

On the motion of Supervisor Barnes, seconded by Supervisor McCotter, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to approve the proposed amendments to Chapter 64. Streets and Sidewalks, Article II. Street Naming and Addressing, Division 2. Road Naming.

Ordinance – To Amend Chapter 86. Land Development Regulations, Appendix A. Fees

Ms. Linda Buckler, Director of Community Development, presented a proposed ordinance amending Appendix A of the Land Development Regulations related to fees. The proposed fee changes are intended to help offset costs associated with street and road sign installation, maintenance, replacement, and GIS-related services discussed in the previous public hearing.

At the November 17, 2025 meeting, the Board directed staff to proceed with amendments to Chapter 86. Land Development Regulations – Appendix A. Schedule of Fees including review of the proposed amendments to Chapter 64 by the Planning Commission and holding a public hearing on the proposed amendments.

The amendments include adding a GIS addressing fee for new construction, increasing the per-mile road charge for GIS integration, adding an upfront road or street sign fee for developments with new roads serving three or more buildable parcels, and increasing fees related to GIS datasets. Ms. Buckler explained that the upfront sign fee would eliminate the need to track developers after construction and that the increased fees would help offset contractor costs and expenses associated with the County’s GIS system. She also noted that collected fees would be coordinated with Emergency Services and Finance to help cover sign costs, which are currently borne by Emergency Services without a reimbursement mechanism.

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on January 8 and recommended approval of the proposed amendments. No public comments were offered during the Board's public hearing. Following discussion, the Board unanimously approved the ordinance amendments to Appendix A of the Land Development Regulations.

Chairman Adams opened the public hearing. With no one wishing to speak, Chairman Adams closed the public hearing and brought it back to the Board for discussion.

On the motion of Supervisor Barnes, seconded by Supervisor McCotter, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to approve the proposed amendments to Chapter 86. Land Development Regulations, Appendix A. Schedule of Fees.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion Supervisor Barnes, seconded by Supervisor Williams, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to adjourn the February 2, 2026, meeting at 7:22 p.m.

BY ORDER OF:
DUANE A. ADAMS, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
LOUISA COUNTY, VIRGINIA

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